

**Protecting Public Health in the City of Los Angeles**

The Los Angeles County (County) Department of Public Health (DPH), founded in 1903, has proven its effectiveness in confronting public health challenges ranging from food safety to polio and HIV/AIDS throughout the entire County. DPH's successes in widespread prevention, education and treatment are emulated repeatedly in other parts of the world and validated by ongoing recognition from the federal government. DPH is nationally recognized by both the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration for its quality, leading edge HIV/AIDS and STD prevention, care, and treatment programming.

In 1964, the City of Los Angeles (City), recognizing the regional nature of public health protection, merged its public health operation with the County's by contracting with DPH to ensure that it continues responsibility for public health services in the City.

This merger

- MORE -

**MOTION**

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

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culminated after several years of planning between the City and the County in order to provide a smooth and seamless transition of services and management of a complex process ensuring that no gaps in public health existed.

A ballot initiative has qualified for the ballot to compel the County and City to terminate the contracts for the management of public health services within the City. The ballot initiative would require the City to establish a completely new public health department to replace that of DPH in a mere 120 days. The City is home to 4 million of the County's 10 million residents.

The ballot initiative defies the administration of public health as determined by the City Council which has voted to oppose the ballot measure in May, 2013. The Mayor of the City also opposes the ballot initiative.

The chief executives of both the City and the County have concluded that the ballot initiative, if passed, would diminish public health services while elevating costs to taxpayers.

Both the City and County of Los Angeles question the public health benefit of this ballot measure.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Join the City of Los Angeles to oppose the June, 2014 ballot initiative to create a City of Los Angeles Public Health Department and schedule a set item on the September 24, 2013 Board of Supervisors agenda at 11:30 a.m. for the Director of

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Public Health to report to the Board on the impacts of passage of this initiative on public health in the County and City, as well as the impacts on the department.

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